

DECEMBER 13, 2011 – SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a special meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 3:00 p.m., at the South Walton Courthouse Annex.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Sara Comander; Commissioner Cecilia Jones; and Commissioner Larry Jones. Mr. Greg Kisela, County Administrator; Ms. Lynn Hoshihara, County Attorney; and Ms. Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts, were also present.

Chairman Brannon was not present. Vice-Chair Commissioner Pridgen assumed position as Chairman.

Chairman Pridgen called the meeting to order to discuss the Office of County Attorney.

Mr. Greg Kisela, County Administrator, discussed the options available to have an individual in-house or a firm representing as County Attorney. An advertisement has been made and all responses are due January 9, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Due to the departure of Ms. Lynn Hoshihara, County Attorney, a determination is needed for an Interim County Attorney position until a new County Attorney is hired.

Commissioner Comander expressed concerns with fees associated with a firm representative and the need for a County Attorney with management experience. She suggested having a County Attorney along with a Staff Attorney, which would handle the daily items and work with the different departments.

Commissioner C. Jones suggested having a Staff Attorney which would be on call 24/7 to handle any county business as needed. She expressed the need for set salaries for

both the County Attorney and Staff Attorney, and allow as many cases to be resolved in-house rather than hiring out.

Mr. Kisela explained it is difficult to predict the level of litigation that will occur. There are currently 30 active cases in the county. It is difficult to contract a set fee for litigation without knowing the level of involvement that will be needed.

Attorney Hoshihara presented information on all the pending cases in the county, stating that there will always be a portion involved with insurance consultants.

Chairman Pridgen expressed concern having two options and the need to focus on one option, either an individual in-house or a firm representative.

Commissioner L. Jones suggested looking at those individuals and firms that are interested and who apply before determining which is the better option.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the process and functionality of having both a Staff Attorney and a County Attorney.

The Board concurred to continue with the advertisement to determine what individuals and firms are interested before making a decision.

Mr. Kisela stated that an evaluation process for those firms and individuals will be brought back at the January 10, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Kisela discussed the Interim County Attorney position and stated that Attorney Hoshihara is able to serve as the County Attorney until March 1st to provide an additional 60 days to select a new County Attorney.

Attorney Hoshihara explained that her future firm of employment is willing to allow her to continue as County Attorney until March 1st for a seamless transition

process, with the understanding that the county will pay her salary to the new firm during that time frame.

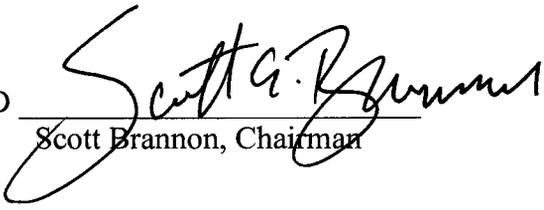
Motion by Commissioner Comander, second by Commissioner C. Jones, to allow Ms. Lynn Hoshihara to remain as the County Attorney until March 1st or until a new County Attorney is hired. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Comander Aye, C. Jones Aye, L. Jones Aye.

Mr. Bob Hudson expressed concerns with a firm representative due to the fees involved. He suggested looking at the true cost of legal expenses for the Legal Department before making a determination.

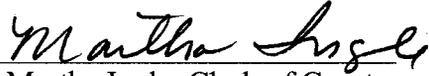
Mr. Kisela stated that information regarding the legal expenses for the last 5 years can be brought back for review at the January 10, 2012 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting recessed at 3:25 p.m.

APPROVED


Scott Brannon, Chairman

ATTEST


Martha Ingle, Clerk of Courts